

October 29, 1951

Dr. B. D. Davis
411 East 69 Street
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Bernie:

I trust that the UW Press has already apologized for their error in first sending you the wrong book. I hope you understand that the Press is completely and solely responsible for the management and distribution of the book.

The list price they adopted was as disturbing to me as yourself. It had been fixed at \$3.00 until the very last minute, when they augmented it without consulting me about it. But this is quite generally not an author's or editor's business. You might like to discuss the matter with Mr. Webb, but I do know that the increase was in response to a markup in prices of paper and printing over which the Press had no control. Unfortunately, the trade markup magnifies every change in manufacturer's costs. For my part, I think the Press would have done better with a lower price, but this was a new type of venture, and one whose scholarly values would not justify what seemed to them like the possibility of a financial loss. If the Press finds that a reasonably large edition of a work of this kind can be sold, I imagine that their future policies will be less conservative. I would be interested, however, to learn what the Press' official response would be to a query on your part.

I was sorry to note that the illustrations from your paper did not do as well as might be hoped in most of the copies. If there is a reprinting, I will try to have a half-tone stripped in instead, and may ask you whether you have the original photographs. This was a particular problem with Robinow's paper, but he could not supply originals.

We enjoyed the ms. you sent in your last letter: it is rather curious to have to search for exceptions to biochemical "unities".

Esther would like to accept your offer to supply some Davis-certified washed agar. 10 g. or so should suffice. As to PF-11, please let Woodruff have it if he intends to work on it. While Snell was here, I thought he might be interested, but since he left, that avenue is probably closed.

Mac's note is rather perplexing. He told me the same full story about three years ago, apparently has dropped it. In view of his remarks on difficulties of growing his bacteria from single cells on minimal media, I am somewhat skeptical, but have no more insight into the problem than you.

Zinder and I were gratified this morning to receive from Edwards a confirmation of our serological diagnosis of a "typhi-typhimurium hybrid", IX, XII, i- obtained by exposure of S. typhi (IX, XII, d -) to FA from S. typhimurium, (IV, V, XII, i; 1,2,3). Edward's group had evidently been working on the same problem from the viewpoint of the pneumococcus transformations, without success, except for some "serum-induced" mutations.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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